

a switch adapted to switch between a first output device which outputs an image and a second output device which outputs an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera; and

a switch controller adapted to control said switch,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to select said second output device for a first predetermined period after said first output device is selected for a second predetermined period, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image output from the first output device.

4. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising memory for storing advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group when the advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.

7. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising memory for storing advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to a second group when the advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.

12. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising memory for storing advertisement,

wherein the advertisement to be outputted by said second output device is the advertisement stored in said memory.

13. An image down-loading system capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:

a first down-loading device which down-loads an image;

a second down-loading device which down-loads an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera;

a switch adapted to switch between said first down-loading device and said second down-loading device; and

a switch controller adapted to control said switch,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to select said second down-loading device for a first predetermined period after said first down-loading device is selected for a second predetermined period, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image down-loaded from said first down-loading device.

14. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the advertisement down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and while said switch selects said second down-loading device, the clients display the advertisement stored in said memory.

15. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the advertisement down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and since a communication path is established on the internet until the image to be down-loaded by said first down-loading device starts to be down-loaded, the clients display the advertisement stored in said memory.

16. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the advertisement down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and after a communication path on the internet is disconnected, the clients display the advertisement stored in said memory.

19. The image down-loading system according to claim 18, further comprising memory for storing advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group when the advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.

22. The image down-loading system according to claim 21, further comprising memory for storing advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to a second group when the advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.

27. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, further comprising memory for storing advertisement,

wherein the advertisement to be down-loaded by said second down-loading device is the advertisement stored in said memory.

28. An image down-loading method capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:

a first down-loading step of down-loading an image;

a second down-loading step of down-loading an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera;

a first switching step of switching from said first down-loading step to said second down-loading step after a first predetermined period has elapsed, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image down-loaded in said first down-loading step; and

a second switching step of switching from said second down-loading step to said first down-loading step after a second predetermined period has elapsed.

29. The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store said advertisement down-loaded in said second down-loading step; and

a step of causing the client to display the stored advertisement for a period corresponding to said second down-loading step.

30. The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store the advertisement down-loaded in said second downloading step; and

a step of displaying the stored advertisement for a period since a communication path is established on the internet until the image to be down-loaded in said first down-loading step starts to be down-loaded.

31. The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store the advertisement down-loaded in said second down-loading step; and

a step of displaying the stored advertisement after communication path on the internet is disconnected.

42. The image down-loading method according to claim 28, wherein, in said second downloading step, advertisement stored in memory in advance is down-loaded.

43. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, said product including:

first computer readable program code means for down-loading an image;

second computer readable program code means for down-loading an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera;

third computer readable program code means for switching from said first computer readable program code means to said second computer readable program code means after a first predetermined period has elapsed, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image down-loaded by said first computer readable program code means; and

fourth computer readable program code means for switching from said second computer readable program code means to said first computer readable program code means after a second predetermined period has elapsed.

44. The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the advertisement; and